

**DRAFT**  
**Subject to Legal Review for Clarity and Consistency**

**U.S. B Singapore Free Trade Agreement**  
**Text of the Agreement**

*This file contains text that is subject to modification and the legal scrubbing process.*

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**CHAPTER 6 : TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**

**ARTICLE 6.1 : SCOPE**

This Chapter applies to technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures as defined in the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (the WTO TBT Agreement).

**ARTICLE 6.2 : ENHANCED CO-OPERATION AND CONTACT POINT**

1. With a view to facilitating the trade in goods between them, the Parties should to the maximum extent possible seek to enhance their co-operation in the area of technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures and deepen the mutual understanding and awareness of their respective systems. Enhanced co-operation could include:

- (a) the exchange of information on technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures of both Parties;
- (b) holding consultations to address and resolve any matters that may arise from the application of specific technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures;
- (c) promoting the use of international standards by both Parties in their respective technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures; and
- (d) facilitating and promoting mechanisms relating to technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures that would enhance and promote trade between the Parties, including mechanisms established at the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum (APEC) and other plurilateral forums.

2. In order to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 1, each Party shall designate a Technical Regulations Contact Point for matters under the Agreement pertaining to technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. The Technical Regulations Contact Points of the Parties shall:

- (a) be responsible for co-ordinating with interested parties in their respective territories proposals for enhanced co-operation and responses to such proposals; and
- (b) normally carry out its functions through agreed communication channels and meet as and when the Parties agree that this is necessary for the efficient and effective discharge of its functions.

**ARTICLE 6.3 : CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT AND OTHER AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST**

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1. Each Party shall take steps to implement Phase I and Phase II of the APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment with respect to the other Party.
2. The Parties should to the maximum extent possible also work towards enhancing the momentum of co-operation in line with their respective bilateral, regional and plurilateral agreements, including the APEC work program on Standards and Conformance. To achieve this objective the Parties should to the maximum extent possible examine the feasibility of cooperating on conformity assessment procedures and other areas of mutual interest, including agreements where the relevant authorities from both Parties are willing to do so.
3. The Parties should to the maximum extent possible consider progress made on achieving the objectives of this Chapter during meetings of the Joint Committee.